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Germans, who for the present are politically allied with the Socialists have been too much brow-beaten and forced to reluctant submission to do other than protest—a protest which will have the more courage in it now the feared Premier is out of office. The Emperor may secure for himself the youthful enthusiasm of the nation, but he has no personal history, can have no such minister as Bismarck, and must either conciliate or fight his opponents at home and abroad. The Labor Congress looks like conciliation. The dismissal of a single regiment of his army would open the way towards mutual disarmament and thus avert the danger from France. The latter he is not likely to do. He loves power, and power is in armies and guns. Hence now that the steady, if heavy hand of Bismarck is withdrawn, the Emperor will not find a bed of roses. An imperious and exacting old man will not annoy him. But “uneasy lies the head that wears a crown.” That of the young Emperor will not be an exception.

INCREASE OF THE NAVY.

A proposition is before the United States Congress to appropriate some hundreds of millions to increase the navy. Why?

1. “That we may gratify national pride and boast how strong we are as compared with other nations.” The reason is too absurd to reply to.

2. “As a measure of *defence*.” Against whom? Who wants to fight the United States? Whose interest is it to make war upon us? What nation has wrongs to avenge? To whom do we owe any money? Whose territory have we stolen? Whose fish and seals do we want besides our own? Will war determine what rightly belongs to either party? No nation has the smallest motive to shell New York or rob the banks of Boston, or forage on the plains of Illinois or seize the mines of Colorado.

3. “To guard our commerce.” Who is disposed to raid it?

4. “To enforce our laws against smuggling.” If there is need of a coast police, the need is for comparatively cheap and swift revenue cutters and not cumbersome and costly iron-sides, which move like snails. Each one of these will cost from \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000.

Why not have a great navy?

1. The money for which the people are taxed can be better employed. How?

I. In public buildings, solid, enduring, convenient, in every place which needs one.

II. In clearing rivers, building levees and making water transportation safe and cheap.

III. In constructing or buying or controlling telegraphs and railroads for the benefit of the people.

IV. In promoting popular education as by the Blair Bill and similar measures.

V. In fostering a merchants’ marine which shall restore our prestige on the ocean and give employment to our sea-faring men and secure for ship-builders the pay now sent abroad.

Why not have a great navy?

1. Because the ships proposed will probably prove useless: (1) on account of superior inventions now in progress; (2) by reason of disuse, such as peace will compel. The proposed vessels would rust and rot in

idleness like the old men-of-war, now rusting and rotting in our harbors and navy yards.

2. A great navy will necessitate an army of sailors and marines to man it; millions of money annually to keep it in repair and run it generally. A great land army will certainly be raised *pari passu* if a great navy is.

3. Great armaments are provocatives of war. They encourage diplomatists to carelessness and boldness in unjust demands and foolish threats. Like the teeth of a growling dog or the curses and doubled fists of a bully, armaments provoke attack.

4. Once entered on a career of rivalry, the United States will be ashamed to pause or go back, and will strive to equal or surpass her compeers, the greatest nations in military power. This will necessitate taxation, conscription and debt. Every year with us will witness something parallel with the military madness or drunkenness of France or Germany, which go staggering forward at a run because they dare not walk.

5. The unrepugnant and anti-democratic organization of a military sort will threaten peaceful citizens, civic order and invite or prosecute revolution.

Why have a great navy?

1. “To give employment to laborers?” We have already suggested work enough for all.

2. “To get rid of our surplus income.” Reduce the taxes and get rid of the income. Make the laborer pay less for his sugar, his tea, coffee and clothing. Abate the enormous income from whiskey by making its manufacture and sale for drinking purposes illegal.

In closing these suggestions, we may say that great coast fortifications such as are planned and proposed will require a regular army of 100,000 men, and an expenditure equal to that proposed for a great navy. We appeal from the pride of show to the common sense of the American people. We warn politicians that farmers’ alliances and mechanics, shopmen and merchants are opposed to augmenting military expenses. They are jealous of the tyrannous nature of military laws and customs. They are afraid of military oppression. They like fair wages and cheap living. The farmers want to sell their products. They want cheap transportation. A revolution in politics will turn out of office those who will not avow their principles and serve their convictions.

Lastly, we wish we could point to the Church of Christ as a power to be respected by politicians. Its power is indeed vast but largely latent. The Christian people should stand together against the schemes of newspapers and politicians to change our peaceful land into a great monster of military force, contrary to the very spirit of the Kingdom of Christ.

ABOLISHING LIBERTY.

The London *Herald* remarks upon the greater freedom enjoyed by foreign visitors in France, than in Germany. But France is imitating Germany’s example. She is restricting the liberty of foreigners in her dominions and imprisons some of her returning citizens, like the young Duke of Orleans. It is difficult for Americans to conceive even, that liberty in those countries is so dangerous to public order as to require constant, repressive and coercive measures. They seem to us like great military camps or prisons of State, where the law abiding citizen or foreigner suffers, because of the lawless. Bad laws, however, provoke lawlessness.